

Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council

Meeting of the Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council held in The Village Hub, Winterbourne Stoke, on Tuesday 29th November 2022 at 7.00 pm

In Attendance: Parish Councillors: Dr A Shuttleworth, P Smith, T Pywell
Apologies: Nil
Parishioners: Nil
Clerk: J Carr

1	Opening Statement from the Chairman	
	<p>Just a few words from me tonight. The year rolls round again and I'd like to take this opportunity to wish villagers a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year. In common with everyone else in the country we face some challenging times ahead, but I'm confident that both here and nationally, we will get through it.</p> <p>Locally, the interminable saga of the A303 continues. Whilst the National Audit Office says the costs will rise, National Highways is pressing ahead and recruiting staff for tunnel construction security. I'm sure we will hear eventually what the latest Secretary of State for Transport thinks.</p>	
2	Apologies Received	
	No apologies received.	
3	To confirm the minutes from the previous Parish Council meeting	
	The minutes from the meetings held on 29 th June 2022 were accepted and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.	
4	To report, for information only, any matters arising from the minutes	
	<p>The following actions were outstanding:</p> <p>a. (01/21-02) The single "toddler" swing requires refurbishment. The Clerk will engage the services of a professional contractor to carry out the refurbishment.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note. This action will be subsumed into Action 12/22-01 below.</p>	<p>Action: Clerk – on going</p>
5	Motions for Approval	
	<p>Motion 1 - To agree the Annual Financial Return.</p> <p>It was agreed unanimously that the precept should remain at £9,090 – a zero percent increase. The Clerk noted that, although the amount coming to the Parish Council would remain the same as last FY, parishioners may see a decrease or increase in individual amount attributed to Winterbourne Stoke Parish Council; this is due to movement in the Tax Base from the prior year.</p> <p>The band D Council Tax charge is calculated by dividing the total Precept Requirement by the Tax Base, if the Tax Base has moved compared to the prior year, <i>which it nearly always does</i>, then freezing the total Precept</p>	

	<p>Requirement will result in an increase/decrease to the band D charge and will therefore show as an increase/decrease against the Town/Parish line on a parishioner's Council Tax bill.</p> <p>Discussion – RoSPA Report.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both swing sets need to be serviced and refurbished. • The ground maintenance contractors should clear the vegetation at the vehicle gate. • The grounds maintenance contract should be renewed. <p>Discussion – Electoral Boundary Changes.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been no representations to the Parish Council from parishioners. It was agreed that the Chairman respond noting the strong socio-economic ties with Amesbury and the natural barrier that is the SPTA.</p> <p>Discussion – Brook Close Theft Incident.</p> <p>Following discussion of the theft from a carport in Brook Close it was noted that social media played a part in the apprehension of the culprits. The Parish Council encourages the use of social media to raise awareness of an incident, for example a suspicious van or person, but that the Police should ALWAYS be called in an emergency. Currently there is both non-partisan Facebook and a WhatsApp pages available to parishioners to share a wide variety of information.</p> <p>Discussion – Ash Die Back.</p> <p>A number of diseased Ash Trees overhang Church Street. Wiltshire Council have a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to examine these trees and contact the landowner to ensure any necessary action (eg felling, reduction in height or watchful waiting) is taken. If the landowners do not take the appropriate action, Wiltshire Council may deal with the matter themselves and charge the landowner for the work.</p> <p>It was noted that Wiltshire Council had explained they stood by national recommendations (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/managing-ash-dieback-in-england#guidance-for-land-managers-and-tree-owners) that Ash trees with Ash Dieback should only be felled/reduced in height if they posed an immediate risk to life and limb by virtue of their location.</p> <p>The best way to report any issues to Wiltshire council is via the MyWilts app.</p>	<p>Actions: Clerk 12/22-01 12/22-02 12/22-03</p> <p>Action: Cllr Dr Shuttleworth 121/22-04</p>
6	Closed Session – No Public Permitted	
7	The Next Meeting	
	The meeting closed at 7:50pm. A date for the next meeting was not set.	

J H Carr
Clerk of the Council

Dr A Shuttleworth
Chairman of the Council